Unmanned level crossing in Tamil Nadu

1151. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 1178 unnamed level crossing in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01.04.2006, there were 1227 unmanned level crossings in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the railways needs manning/ upgrading/posting of additional gate-keeper due to increase in road traffic, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossing, Railways have decided to man vulnerable level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions at the unmanned level crossing. Such level crossings are being manned progressively.

Gauge conversion

†1152. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway lines in the country yet to be converted into broad gauge;

(b) the length of railway lines converted into broad gauge during last Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the target of broad-gauge conversion during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) the details of sections to be completed by the end of current financial year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether there is possibility of considering on acquiring additional funds to expedite this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of Railway lines are not feasible to be indicated as it is not a defined item. However, as on 31.3.2005, 15716 kms. were on Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge.

(b) During Ninth Plan period 2103 Metre Gauge Lines were converted into Broad Gauge and the expenditure during the said period on Gauge Conversion was about Rs. 3,380 crore. Expenditure on projects is not maintained State-wise. State-wise kms converted is given in the Statement-II *(See* below.)

(c) Targets for gauge conversion are not fixed State-wise. However, target for Gauge Conversion during Xth Plan period was fixed at 2365 kms. which was revised to 4000 kms. during Mid Term Appraisal.

(d) The sections targeted for completion during the current year is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public/Private Partnership. State funding of the Project, National Projects, funding through Defence and extra resources from internal generation to expedite completion of railway projects including gauge conversion projects.

Statement-I

The State-wise breakup of gauge conversion done during Ninth Five Year Plan

State	Achievements (in Kms.)
Andhra Pradesh	214
Assam	186
Bihar	138
Gujarat	187
Karnataka	235
Madhya Pradesh	50

State	Achievements (in Kms.)
Maharashtra	266
Rajasthan	106
Tamil Nadu	509
Uttar Pradesh	216
TOTAL	2103

Statement-II

Gauge conversion works targeted for completion during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Railways	Projects/Sections	Length (in Kms.)
1	East Central	Jayanagar-Darbhanga	68
2	Northeast Frontier	Senchoa-Silghat	62
3	Northeast Frontier	Katihar-Barsoi	33
4	North Western	Ajmer-Chittaurgarh	185
5	South Central	Kinwat-Mudkhed	117
6	South Central	Sonamukhi-Rainagar	56
7	Southern	Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur	61
8	Southern	Tiruvarur-Nagore	30
9	Southern	Pudukottai-Karaikudi	37
10	Southern	Mailaduturai-Villupuram	122
11	Southern	Attur-Salem	56
12	South Western	Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot	55
13	South Western	Mysore-Chamarajanagar	61
14	Western	Neemuch-Ratlam	135
15	Western	Veraval-Somnath new line	5
16	Western	Samakhiali-Gandhidham	53
		TOTAL	1136